

In re Appln. of Holland-Letz
Application No. 09/963,330

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 80, 88, 89, 94, 100, and 109 and add claims 114-119, as indicated below in the listing of claims.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-79 (canceled)

80. (Currently Amended) A handle for a tool configured for an assigned group of hands, the handle comprising:

a body having a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis extending between the ends;

the body having a finger section for engagement with fingers of a user, the finger section extending along the longitudinal axis; and a palm section for engagement with a palm of the user, the palm section extending along the longitudinal axis and substantially opposing the finger section;

wherein the palm section includes a distal part adjacent the distal end, a proximal part adjacent the proximal end, and a center part that lies between the distal part and the proximal part, wherein the center part has a convex portion having a three-dimensional curvature that extends over at least a part of its circumference for engagement with the palm of the user, and wherein said curvature has a surface, the surface being disposed relative to the longitudinal axis such that the surface has a point disposed at a maximum distance from the longitudinal axis at a point along the longitudinal axis that is situated approximately in a central region of the curvature and wherein the distance from the surface to the longitudinal axis decreases from the maximum to the distal and proximal parts, the convex portion having a length, measured along a line tangent to said maximum and parallel to said longitudinal axis, of between 45% and 55% of the average hand width of said assigned group of hands, the curvature having a curvature radius of between 60 and 120 mm at said maximum point, the curvature radius of said finger section being greater than that of said palm section, and the center part being asymmetrical relative to a plane including said maximum point and said longitudinal axis.

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81. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the surface of the curvature contains a generatrix that extends from the distal part to the proximal part, with said generatrix representing the geometric location of all points that have the greatest distance from the longitudinal axis in the center part in all cross sections along the longitudinal axis.

82. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 81 wherein the generatrix is a plane curve.

83. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 81 wherein the generatrix is a three-dimensional curve.

84. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 83 wherein the points of the three-dimensional curve partially lie on one side of a plane that extends perpendicular to a central plane and includes the longitudinal axis with part of said points lying on the other side of said central plane.

85. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein all generatrices of the surface of the curvature have a convex progression.

86. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the proximal part has a surface contour that continuously decreases from the center part to the proximal end.

87. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the proximal part has a continuously concave surface contour from the center part to the proximal end.

88. (Currently Amended) The handle according to claim 86 wherein a length measured between the maximum and the proximal end of the proximal part amounts to between 50% and 55% of the average hand width of said assigned group of hands.

89. (Currently Amended) The handle according to claim 87 wherein a length measured between the maximum and the proximal end of the proximal part amounts to between 50% and 55% of the average hand width of said assigned group of hands.

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90. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 86 wherein a length measured between the maximum of the center part and a minimum of the proximal part amounts to between about 33% and about 37% of the average hand width of said assigned group of hands.

91. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 87 wherein a length measured between the maximum of the center part and a minimum of the proximal part amounts to between about 33% and about 37% of the average hand width of said assigned group of hands.

92. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the distal part has a continuously concave surface from the center part to the distal end.

93. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the center part has gradually increasing curvature radii moving along the longitudinal axis from the maximum to the distal part and from the maximum to the proximal part.

94. (Currently Amended) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the handle has a continuously egg-shaped, or oval or elliptical cross sections.

95. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the body is one piece, and the palm section is integrally connected to the finger section by an inner section.

96. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the body comprises two pieces, wherein the palm section and the finger section respectively form at least part of first and second handle parts, and wherein the first and second handle parts are separated by an intermediate space.

97. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 96 wherein the curvature is configured such that the maximum of the center part is disposed closer to the proximal part than to the distal part, the first and second handle parts being adapted for pliers.

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98. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 96 wherein the palm section and the finger section are configured in a substantially laterally-reversed symmetric fashion about a central plane.

99. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 97 wherein the palm section and the finger section are configured in a substantially laterally-reversed symmetric fashion about a central plane.

100. (Currently Amended) The handle according to claim 96 wherein the body has continuous cross sections which are elliptical, oval, or egg-shaped cross sections if imaginary surfaces along the longitudinal axis which connect lateral regions of the palm and finger sections are included.

101. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 96 wherein the finger section is substantially cylindrical.

102. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the handle is assigned to a group of small hands.

103. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the handle is assigned to a group of large hands.

104. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the handle is assigned to a group of medium hands.

105. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the curvature extends in at least two directions that lie perpendicular to one another.

106. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the distal part includes a substantially planar thumb support surface.

107. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the handle has an asymmetric shape for a right-handed user.

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D1 108. (Previously Presented) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the handle has an asymmetric shape for a left-handed user.

109. (Currently Amended) The handle according to claim 108 wherein the left-handed asymmetric shape is laterally symmetric reversed with respect to a right-handed asymmetric shape for a right-handed user.

110. (Previously Presented) A handle set for a tool comprising a plurality of handles, each handle according to claim 80.

111. (Previously Presented) The handle set according to claim 110 wherein at least two handles are configured for a different assigned group of hands.

112. (Previously Presented) A tool comprising a functional part and a handle according to claim 80, the functional part being mountable to the handle.

113. (Previously Presented) A tool set comprising a plurality of tools, each tool including a functional part and a handle according to claim 80, the functional part being mounted to the handle, each functional part being the same, and at least two handles being configured for a different assigned group of hands.

D2 114. (New) The handle according to claim 80 wherein a section taken in a first plane is asymmetric relative to a pair of perpendicular axes defining the first plane, the first plane being perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and extending through the point of the center part disposed at the maximum distance from the longitudinal axis, and one of the perpendicular axes extending through the point disposed at the maximum distance from the longitudinal axis.

115. (New) The handle according to claim 114 wherein sections of the center part taken along the longitudinal axis each in a plane parallel to the first plane are asymmetric relative to the pair of perpendicular axes.

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116. (New) The handle according to claim 80 wherein in sections of the center part taken along a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the plane being defined by a pair of perpendicular axes, each section includes opposing cross-sectional contours disposed on both sides of at least one of the pair of perpendicular axes, the opposing cross-sectional contours being asymmetrical with respect to each other.

117. (New) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the distal part of the palm section includes a first concave portion and the proximal part of the palm section each includes a second concave portion, the first concave portion and the convex portion defining a first turning point, the second concave portion and the convex portion defining a second turning point, the length of the convex portion being measured between the first and second turning points.

118. (New) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the curvature of the center part of the palm section has a curvature radius of between 60 and 120 mm at said maximum point.

119. (New) The handle according to claim 80 wherein the body is substantially continuous and smooth.